



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 16th March 2017, 19:15

Chair: J. Guthrie

Attendees: E. Hayward, S. Moat, M. Walker, G. Murdoch, C. Rodger, S. Fraser (minutes)

Also Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, Cllr A. Skene (later 19:30), G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), 3 members of public

Apologies: K. Shand, G. Hilditch, Cllr A. McLean

FCC - Forres Community Council JCC – Joint Community Council TMC - The Moray Council FAF - Forres Area Forum

	Discussion	Action																		
1.	Welcome: J. Guthrie opened the meeting welcoming those present. J. Guthrie acted as Chair as G. Hilditch tendered apologies due to illness. J. Guthrie read out a letter of resignation from K. Hardie																			
2.	Presentation: Debbie Herron, Development Officer at Forres Area Community Trust (FACT) presented about the work of the trust. Debbie outlined the projects currently being undertaken by the organisation including work in the areas of digital inclusion, community tourism, building a skatepark for Forres, promoting walking in the area and supporting older people. Debbie confirmed that FACT is at the early stages of exploring the possibility of a community asset transfer of Forres Town Hall																			
4.	<p>Police & Community Warden Report: During the reporting period for the March 2017 Moray Community Safety Partnership Report, 14 incidents were investigated by the Community Warden in the Forres area including:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="140 1131 1265 1220"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Abandoned Vehicles</th> <th>Neighbours</th> <th>Dog Fouling</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Rowdy Behaviour</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Police Report highlighted the following incidents in the Forres burgh area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forced Entry: Commercial properties Small World, The Great Little Stove Company and Fitness Barn were all broken into between the period February 2nd and February 6th. Nothing was stolen at any of the properties, inquiry ongoing - Vandalism: glass panels were smashed at the front of Pilmuir School and a window was smashed at Asher’s Bakery on Forres High Street - Driving Offences: On February 18th on the A96 in the Forres area, a 55 year old local man was found to be driving a car without having paid vehicle excise duty - Road Traffic Accidents: On February 5th a male pedal cyclist was knocked off his bike on Orchard Road. Struck by a motor car, thought to be a grey coloured Honda Accord, the driver of the vehicle failed to stop. Inquiry ongoing - Disturbances/Behaviour: On February 14th at a retail premise on Fleurs Place, a 55 year old man acted in a threatening/abusive manner, he was arrested and charged. On February 19th a 34 year old local female and a 26 year old local man caused a disturbance and damaged property within a licenced premise on Forres High Street, both were charged. On February 22nd, a 21 year old Elgin man assaulted another man on Forres High Street and was charged - Possession: On February 18th in the Fleurs Place area, an 18 year old local man was found in possession of a Class B drug. On February 19th on South Street, a 25 year old local man was found in possession of a Class B drug 	Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents						Abandoned Vehicles	Neighbours	Dog Fouling	Noise	Rowdy Behaviour	Total	2	1	5	5	1	14	
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5.	<p>Public Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member of the public raised concerns about the timetable changes to Stagecoach 																			

	<p>bus number 10 which would mean that travelling west bound, the number of buses servicing Forres after 20:00 would be two. J. Guthrie suggested this point be raised by FCC in current discussions with Stagecoach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forres in Bloom will be represented in Britain in Bloom, with judging taking place in August. If any group is planning works to be undertaken in August, it was requested they inform Forres in Bloom so that the judging route can be planned accordingly. Forres in Bloom is starting to work with FAF to progress aspects of the Forres Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. E. Hayward is to arrange a presentation date for Forres in Bloom to talk about the work they do - Forres 2020 Vision Planning for Real has progressed and all the data has been analysed, the prioritisation event will take place in May 	E.Hayward
6.	<p>Ratification of Minutes: An amendment to point 7 from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 16th February was made to reflect that the issue of land ownership near Tytler Street was initiated through G. Murdoch speaking to a member of the public. In response to this, E. Hayward acquired a map showing the ownership boundaries. The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 16th February was proposed by S. Moat seconded by M. Walker and ratified by Chair J. Guthrie</p>	
7.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A96 Safe Crossing Petition: E. Hayward updated the meeting that the petition has now been gathered in with 162 online signatures and 637 signatures on paper obtained. E. Hayward expressed disappointment with this number and thanked the Forres Gazette for helping publicise the petition. The petition will be presented to Scottish Government. E. Hayward wrote to Ken Aitken of Transport Scotland regarding the follow up report being conducted regarding to the A96 crossing place to Forres railway station and as yet has not heard back - Dallas Dhu Development: G. Hilditch requested this matter be dealt with at the April meeting upon his return. Complaints from members of the public have been received regarding this topic and will be dealt with in due course - Termination of Stagecoach 36 Bus Service: A meeting was held with the North of Scotland Operations Director, Graeme Leslie regarding to the planned termination of the Stagecoach 36 service. Mr Leslie confirmed that the service runs at a loss of approximately £80k per year and the company can no longer sustain this financially. Issues raised at the meeting by FCC representatives G. Hilditch, E. Hayward and S. Fraser include potential declines in the trade in Forres Town Centre as less people from Kinloss/Findhorn will be able to travel to Forres to shop; armed forces families in Kinloss who rely upon the service will be cut off; those who do not drive in Forres/Kinloss/Findhorn will be disadvantaged; the bus service to and from Forres Health Centre will no longer be serviced by public transport creating problems for appointment attendance. E. Hayward noted that Forres Health Centre had been contacted and invited to the meeting with the Stagecoach representative and was advised that no one would be able to attend. Cllr A. Skene confirmed that Stagecoach has been lobbied regarding this matter and that the company has been surprised by the public outcry following the announcement. Haven spoken with Stagecoach, Cllr A. Skene feels a service linking Forres-Kinloss-Findhorn will still be provided but it won't follow the same timetable or route as it currently does. Cllr A. Skene advised a <i>wait and see</i> approach at this stage - Moray Local Development Plan: G. Hilditch requested this matter be dealt with at the April meeting upon his return 	
8.	<p>Moray Councillor Reports: Cllr G. Alexander:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraged responses to the Open Space Strategy and Dallas Dhu Consultation that 	

are currently open for public input

- Several planning meetings and site visits are scheduled to happen before the Council session finishes at the end of March which Cllr G. Alexander is engaged in
- Attended Prevention Poverty & Social Inclusion training on March 3rd with many useful talks and information
- On March 10th Cllr G. Alexander and E. Hayward toured the new railway station site. The line and station will be operational by mid October 2017
- Pilmuir Primary School Deputy Head Teacher has been appointed and interviews for a Principal Teacher will take place shortly. 30 children have been enrolled for the September 2017 intake at Pilmuir
- Cllr G. Alexander highlighted that a quote printed in the Forres Gazette following the February FCC meeting was incorrect. Regarding to education and schools in Forres, Cllr G. Alexander made the point that two schools, Anderson's and Applegrove, had the capacity to hold all Primary School pupils in Forres. In the Forres Gazette, Applegrove had been omitted

Cllr L. Creswell:

- Cllr L. Creswell expanded upon the information given by Debbie Herron in the presentation at the start of the meeting. The appointed worker for the Older Person's project is Kirsty Williams who works 18 hours across Monday to Wednesday. Kirsty will be setting up a Befriending Scheme and updating the Older Person's Directory
- Attended Community Planning meeting and learnt about new legislation which will mean the sharing of buildings and resources for community purpose
- Attended a series of events with the Moray Wellbeing Hub which promoted self-management of health, wellbeing and awareness with the aim of reducing trips to the GP. Cllr L. Creswell also attended a Poverty Prevention Event
- Visited Goslar in Germany at own costs and the Youth Centre that Soccer 7s will be staying at and learnt about the exchange trips that will be taking place between people in the area and Forres. Cllr L. Creswell confirmed that Moray Council no longer funds twinning
- The Osprey Bus bookings administration may be moving to Forres House Community Centre
- Attended a meeting with the Ambulance Service and learnt about the Patient Participation Forum working to purchase defibrillators for public spaces
- Encouraged nominations for Community Awards, closing date March 31st

Cllr A. Skene:

- Chaired the last Children & Young People's Committee
- The last Transition Board meeting looked at design principles, identifying issues and priorities for the next Council to progress. Cllr A. Skene highlighted that the Transition Board meetings have created an openness between opposition groups and feels the Council has become more relaxed with agreement being reached between Councillors
- Leisure Board review continues with report to full Council due to take place on March 29th. No hard decisions about the leisure estate will be made at this stage
- Applegrove Primary School has recently had an education inspection with the subsequent report due for release in the next couple of weeks
- Attended the Dallas Dhu Masterplan briefing and highlighted the issue of public transport to and from the area. It was suggested that the Stagecoach 36 service extend from Knockomie to serve the new housing estate. In light of the expected withdrawal of the 36 service, this suggestion is now in doubt
- A Special Full Council was held to examine the Joint Inspection Report of Children's Services. The inspection was carried out between August and October 2016. Cllr A.

	<p>Skene pointed out that there were some excellent examples of good practices in some individual services and that the inspectorate criticised the lack of collaborative working practice between services. The report is being used as a catalyst for change moving forwards with an improvement plan already in place. The inspector is due to return in six months to review progress. Cllr A. Skene reassured the meeting that children in Moray were safe and not at any risk and that it was simply about services working together more efficiently and in a timely manner</p>	
9.	<p>Chair's Report: No business was discussed under this agenda point</p>	
10.	<p>Secretary's Report: Leancoil Hospital: E. Hayward wrote to Pam Gowans requesting a standalone meeting to discuss the future of Leancoil Hospital with the public of Forres. Mrs Gowans was on annual leave at the time of writing and will return week commencing March 20th. FCC will know more about the possibility of a meeting in due course after this date. Forres Common Good: A letter was received from Mr Burns apologising for the delay in responding to the correspondence sent from FCC in December 2016 regarding to Forres Common Good. In the response, Mr Burns stated that there was currently no time or resource available for Moray Council staff to attend FCC to answer questions about the Common Good Fund and annual accounts. Mr Burns highlighted that any further enquiries should be directed in email or writing to the Finance team at Moray Council. Railway: E. Hayward met Stuart Mackay Communications Manager at BAM Nuttall who has requested a time to present to FCC about progress of the railway line upgrade. E. Hayward is to arrange a presentation time that will take place out with the FCC meeting</p>	E.Hayward
11.	<p>Treasurer's Report: £1,766.96 in main account and £118.78 in Credit Union account. Expenses and cost for Christmas event have been paid out of the Credit Union account which will be refunded from the main account. S. Moat is now signed onto the main account; the Chair and Vice-Chair are still to be signed on. H. Shaw is still a signatory on the main account and will continue to sign cheques until Chair and Vice-Chair have been added as account signatories. It was agreed that FCC continue Corporate Membership of Friends of Falconer Museum for this year and to pay for the backdated membership from the previous year too. This membership renewal was proposed by M. Walker and seconded by C. Rodger. S. Moat raised concerns about the amount of money building up in the main account and called for suggestions on how this might be remedied before a new FCC is elected in September. E. Hayward is to contact Jane Martin to seek advice about legitimate items that Community Councils can spend funds on</p>	E.Hayward
12.	<p>Group and Representative Reports: J. Guthrie: Attended Disabled Access Day looking at the accessibility of town centre shops and buildings. The group is looking to produce a directory of accessible places in Forres G. Murdoch: The latest Forres Business Association meeting took place at Brodie Castle with a Toastmaster session. In response to a letter of complaint published in Forres Gazette, G. Murdoch explained that the Colours of Cluny group is there to make Cluny Hill a better place for visitors and that tree removal was being undertaken by qualified tree surgeons and foresters. G. Murdoch's business Murdoch Brothers Butcher is now listed on Euan's Guide as an accessible shop in Forres. G. Murdoch updated the meeting following a letter from SEPA highlighting constraints of removing vegetation and use of machinery if dredging were to take place in Mosset Burn. The letter also noted that Sanquhar Loch is likely to be designated as a reservoir later this year and management of it would then fall under the Scotland Reservoirs Act 2011. Gareth Edwards, who attended last month's meeting would like to attend further meetings to learn more about what FCC does S. Fraser: S. Fraser submitted a written report including updates from Forres Highland Games, ongoing involvement with Forres 2020 Vision and progressing WiFi for Forres Town Hall. Following the suggestion from J. Guthrie, S. Fraser acquired prices and made a draft copy of edit to be included in the Forres Focus. Following further discussion, it was</p>	

	<p>suggested by S. Fraser that a monthly notice advertising FCC meeting dates be taken covering a twelve month period in Forres Gazette. Two advertisements in Forres Focus and the yearly package in Forres Gazette was proposed by E. Hayward and seconded by M. Walker. S. Fraser will produce copy for adverts and source pricing</p> <p>S. Moat: Forres Soccer 7s has relocated its defibrillators to outside the Pavilion in Grant Park and is on the Scottish Ambulance listing database. Forres Soccer 7s are going to visit Germany with fundraising support from Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>E. Hayward: A planning application has been submitted from Speyside Craft Brewery, 2 Greshop Road for a change of use to form a retail unit and operate six outdoor events. K. Shand had raised concerns about wheelchair access at Sanquhar Pond, E. Hayward contacted Brian McDonald regarding this and he confirmed that any changes would need to go through Moray Council planning department, E. Hayward passed this information to K. Shand. The derelict building issues are still ongoing with Castlehill Church and cottages at Leask Road and North Road continuing to deteriorate. E. Hayward highlighted important information/surveys and encouraged those in attendance to review and respond regarding to the Community Asset transfer Register, Queen to Country Devolution of the Crown Estates, Police Survey and the Napier University Community Council Survey. E. Hayward confirmed that the kiosk outside the Tolbooth will be removed and the cables will be kept in place if they are required to be wired and used for another purpose</p>	S.Fraser
13.	AOCB: No further business was discussed	
14.	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Be Like Pablo Video Screen and Live Music, Friday 17th March 7pm, FAYZ</p> <p>Macmillan Forres Fundraising Group AGM, Tuesday 21st March 7:30pm, Forres Town Hall</p> <p>Join the Dots Conference, Wednesday 22nd March 10am to 3pm, Mansfield Hotel Elgin</p> <p>Force9Energy Exhibition, Wednesday 22nd March 2-7pm, Forres House Community Centre</p> <p>Forres Heritage Trust AGM, Wednesday 22nd March 7pm, Tolbooth</p> <p>Art Walks, starting Wednesday 29th March 10am, meet Sanquhar Loch Car Park</p> <p>Forres: a Hotbed of Witches?, Wednesday 29th March 7pm, Tolbooth</p> <p>Nelson Tower Opening for Season, Saturday 1st April 2pm</p> <p>Free Weekend Walking Festival, Friday 31st March to Sunday 2nd April, details online</p> <p>German Bingo Night, Saturday 6th May from 5pm, Forres Town Hall</p>	
15.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday 20 th April , 7:15pm	

Meeting ended: 21:10